(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for meeting the Demand of herbs in international market and earning foreign exchange therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle was established in 1956. Since then scientists of the Botanical Survey of India engaged in research work on herbs of hilly areas of north-east India which includes the whole area of Assam also. Several research papers have already been published on herbs of Assam. A comprehensive account of Plants of Assam in the form of flora is under preparation.

(c) and (d) Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed agro and processing technologies for diverse medicinal and aromatic plants which have been made available to farmers for commercial exploitation. Its efforts have led to increased cultivation and processing of some medicinal and aromatic plants. Which besides meeting internal requirements are also exported, for example: Menthol Mint, which is now cultivated in about one lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh producing about 9000 tonnes of oil valued at around Rs. 500 crore.

Reservation of Beds

189. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no reservation of beds for CGHS beneficiaries in Central Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to provide reservation of beds in such hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries or their family members;

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) As patients from the general public alongwith CGHS beneficiaries take indoor treatment in Central Government hospitals, it would be difficult to reserve beds for CGHS beneficiaries in these hospitals since patients are admitted depending on the merit/urgency of their case irrespective of whether these patients are from the general public or are Central Government employees/ pensioners covered under CGHS. However, the Nursing Home facility at Dr. R.M. Lohia Hospital are mainly provided to the entitled CGHS beneficiaries.

IRS-1D

190. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether PSLV-C1 rocket launched recently has successfully placed in orbit an operational remote sensing satellite IRS-1D;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon and the extent of success achieved how far it has placed India amongst the big powers with satellite launching facilities;

(c) whether the Prime Minister at a press conference following the launch declared that India would resist all attempts by any country to prevent it from transferring its achievements in key sectors like space-technology in defence; and

(d) if so, from which countries such resistance was preceived or pressures received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Significant milestone has been achieved by PSLV demonstrating capability to place a 1200 kg class IRS satellite into 817 km polar orbit on 29th September 1997. With this mission, apart from increasing the payload capability by 30 per cent from 922 kg of IRS P3 in the previous mission in March 96, several ground systems required for Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) such as common check-out facilities and propellant servicing facilities also have been validated. Improved first two stages have also been successfully flight proven. The experience gained in the previous flights has resulted in reducing the countdown time to 52 hours from about 72 hours earlier.

With this success, India becomes the seventh country possessing launch capability of 1200 kg polar sunsynchronous